

generally instinctive: it pursues the same lines throughout all the individuals of the species. All birds of a kind tend to build their nests according to a common plan, and are actuated by similar home-staying or migratory impulses. Wild animals that are caged continue to act as if the earth were below and the sky above them: squirrels will make believe to bury nuts: mateless birds will collect nesting materials as spring approaches. Domesticated animals, on the other hand, appear to possess a special aptitude for forming, individually, habits of their own: horses become used to riding or driving, and resent a change of service: dogs accommodate themselves to the domestic arrangements of their masters. It is, indeed, owing to this plasticity that they have been domesticated at all. Amongst wild animals behaviour which we speak of as habitual is very frequently instinctive. A tiger, after killing its prey, does not eat it forthwith, but lies up, near by, for some hours before commencing its meal—conduct which assists very greatly the sport of tiger shooting. This peculiarity is instinctive not habitual: it runs throughout the species. By instinct, not by habit, birds put their heads under their wings when sleeping: the penguin pretends to do so, although its degenerate wings afford no cover. A dog turning round before settling itself to sleep

is also acting instinctively, not by force
of habit.
dogs, generally, preserve this survival
from the
past.

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Can habit produce changes which
become
innate and hereditary? Has man
radically im-
proved his nature by the practices of
civilization?
Are we born more decent, more
orderly, more